

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated January 26, 2005, claims 1, 18, and 19 have been amended. Claims 1-6 and 18-19 are in the case. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

The Applicants note that an election without traverse of claims 1-6 and 18-19 was made on December 7, 2004. As such, the Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's withdrawal of claims 7-17 from further consideration.

The Office Action objected to claims 18-19 due to minor informalities.

In response, the Applicants have amended claims 18-19 as suggested by the Examiner to overcome these objections.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

In response, the Applicants have amended claims 1-6 as suggested by the Examiner to overcome these rejections.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-6 and 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Peters et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,842,195).

The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections based on the amendments to the claims and the arguments below.

The Applicants' invention now includes in claims 1, 18, and 19, using an application specific integrated circuit and discrete logic circuits, while claims 18 and 19 now include using eraseable programmable read-only memory.

In contrast, Peters et al. disclose a software implemented (see appended software code listing of Peters et al.) survey data collection system. Although Peters et al. disclose using unique answer codes (see Abstract), Peters et al. does not disclose the Applicants' application specific integrated circuit, discrete logic circuits, and eraseable programmable read-only memory.

Hence, since the cited reference does not disclose all of the elements of the claimed invention, the reference cannot anticipate the claims. As such, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102 should be withdrawn.

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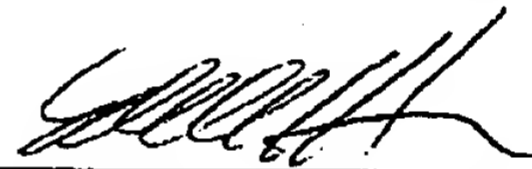
With regard to the rejection of the dependent claims, because they depend from the above-argued respective independent claims, and they contain additional limitations that are patentably distinguishable over the cited references, these claims are also considered to be patentable (MPEP § 2143.03).

Thus, it is respectfully requested that all of the claims be allowed based on the amendments and arguments. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. Additionally, in an effort to further the prosecution of the subject application, the Applicant kindly requests the Examiner to telephone the Applicant's attorney at (818) 885-1575.

Please note that all mail correspondence should continue to be directed to

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Respectfully submitted,
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